

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending, of which claims 1 and 14 are the only independent claims.

By the foregoing, a drawing replacement sheet is submitted and the specification is amended to correct a typographical error.

The drawings are objected to for failing to show references 32 and 34, which are described in the specification. The enclosed replacement sheet showing Fig. 1 now includes references 32 and 34. No new matter is added. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the drawing objection.

The drawings are objected to for duplicative designating the same "palm portion" using references 74 and 78. Applicant has corrected the specification as filed at page 3, line 20 to correct the typographical error, which inadvertently stated that palm portions were 74 when they were 78. The preceding section of the same paragraph indicates that reference 74 refers to a paw print. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the drawings do not need correction and respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the objection.

Claims 1-8 and 12-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,955,321 to Waldner (Waldner). Claims 9-11 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Waldner.

All independent claims require a plurality of raised bumps arranged on the upper surface of the pet wherein the bumps are in an irregular, asymmetric pattern. Waldner does not teach, suggest, or reasonably disclose a plurality of bumps.

Waldner discloses a tray member 20 disposed with ribs such as side ribs 30 and 31, ribs 32 and 33, and transverse ribs 34-39, which are completely different structures than the presently claimed bumps.

A bump may be defined as “A raised or rounded spot; a bulge,” *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition, 2000, Houghton Mifflin Company*, or as “protuberance on a surface,” <http://www.m-w.com/cgi-bin/dictionary>.

In comparison, the salient definition of rib is “A long, narrow, usually arched member projecting from the surface of a structure...” *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition, 2000, Houghton Mifflin Company*. <http://www.m-w.com/cgi-bin/dictionary>

It is clear Waldner intended to use rib in the conventional sense and did not intend to define rib as a raised or rounded spot. Waldner discloses a longitudinal structure at col. 2, lines 36-37, “[r]ibs...are provided to confine in a lengthwise direction.” See also claim 1, claiming elongate ribs. Waldner continues to disclose at col. 2, lines 39-42 that the ribs that are intended to compartmentalize areas defined in the ribs, which is not physically possible for bumps.

Furthermore, Waldner does not teach, suggest or reasonably disclose any structure that is an irregular, asymmetric pattern. Fig. 2, the only plan view, shows that each element of the tray member 20 is mirrored on the opposing side regardless whether the tray member is considered to be bilateral in a top-down or right-left orientation with respect to the orientation of the figure. This is neither asymmetrical nor irregular.

Applicant, as a matter of record, respectfully submits that the Examiner’s assertions with respect to the dependent claims are incorrect. When viewing Fig. 2, Waldner clearly discloses a

rectangular peripheral shape, which commonly is understood to be a regular shape (claims 3 and 14), and clearly does not disclose a curvature of any kind (claims 4 and 15). The Applicant is unable to find in the citations given by the Examiner any suggestion of using rubber or using a tacky surface. Applicant respectfully submits that a reference to plastic, which is usually used for its properties of smoothness, does not teach or suggest use of a rubber, a natural rubber, nor a use of a tacky rubber material.

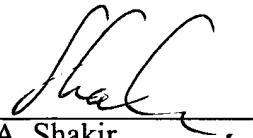
The Examiner is accordingly respectfully requested to withdraw all rejections.

All dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims from which they depend.

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Please substitute the enclosed Replacement Sheet showing FIG. 1 for the existing sheet showing FIG. 1.